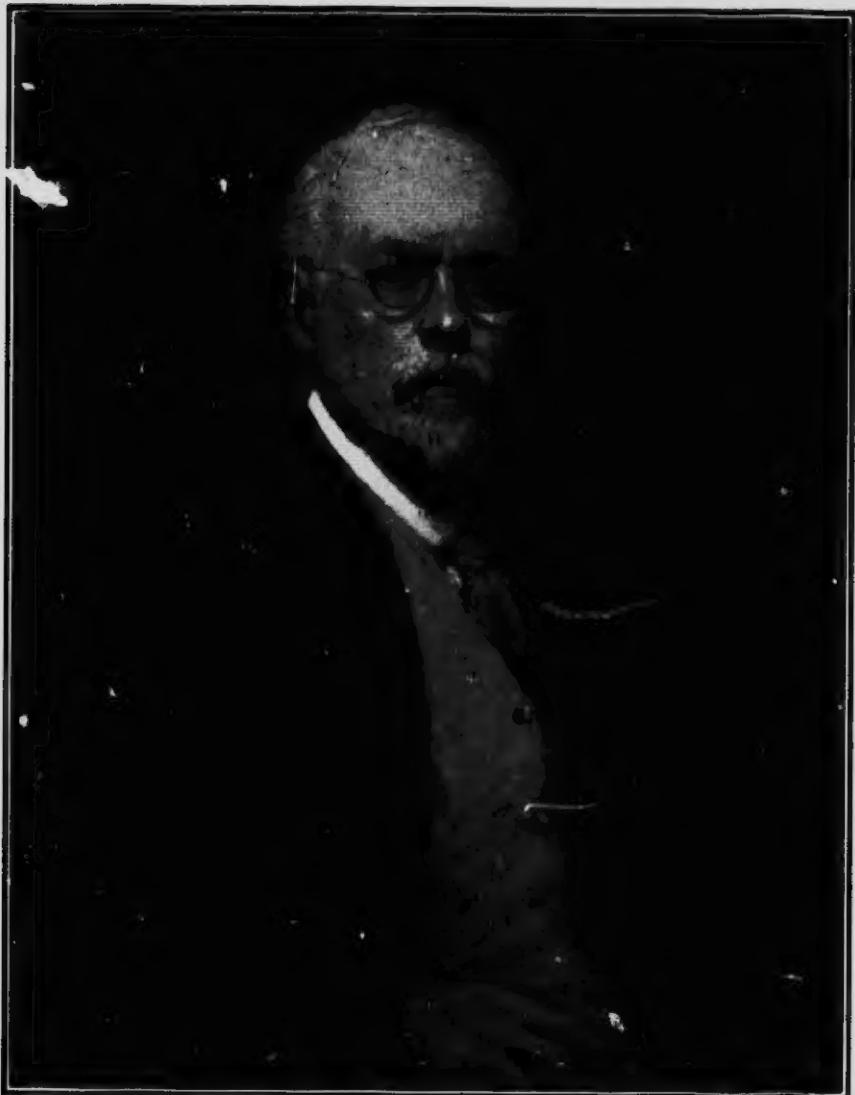


CATALOGUE OF PICTURES
BY
ROBERT HARRIS
C.M.G., R.C.A.
IN THE
Memorial Gallery
Public Library
CHARLOTTETOWN
P. E. I.





ROBERT HARRIS, C.M.G., R.C.A.

From the Foreword to Memorial Exhibition of Mr. Harris' Paintings held in Montreal Art Association, April 24, 1919, shortly after his death.

ROBERT HARRIS, C.M.G., R.C.A.

"O human faces

What did ye give me that I have not saved?"

—from Browning's Pictor Ignotus

CANADA owes a deep debt of gratitude to the late Robert Harris for in his portraits he has kept alive for her the personality of so many of her distinguished sons—men closely associated with the life of the country for the past forty years.

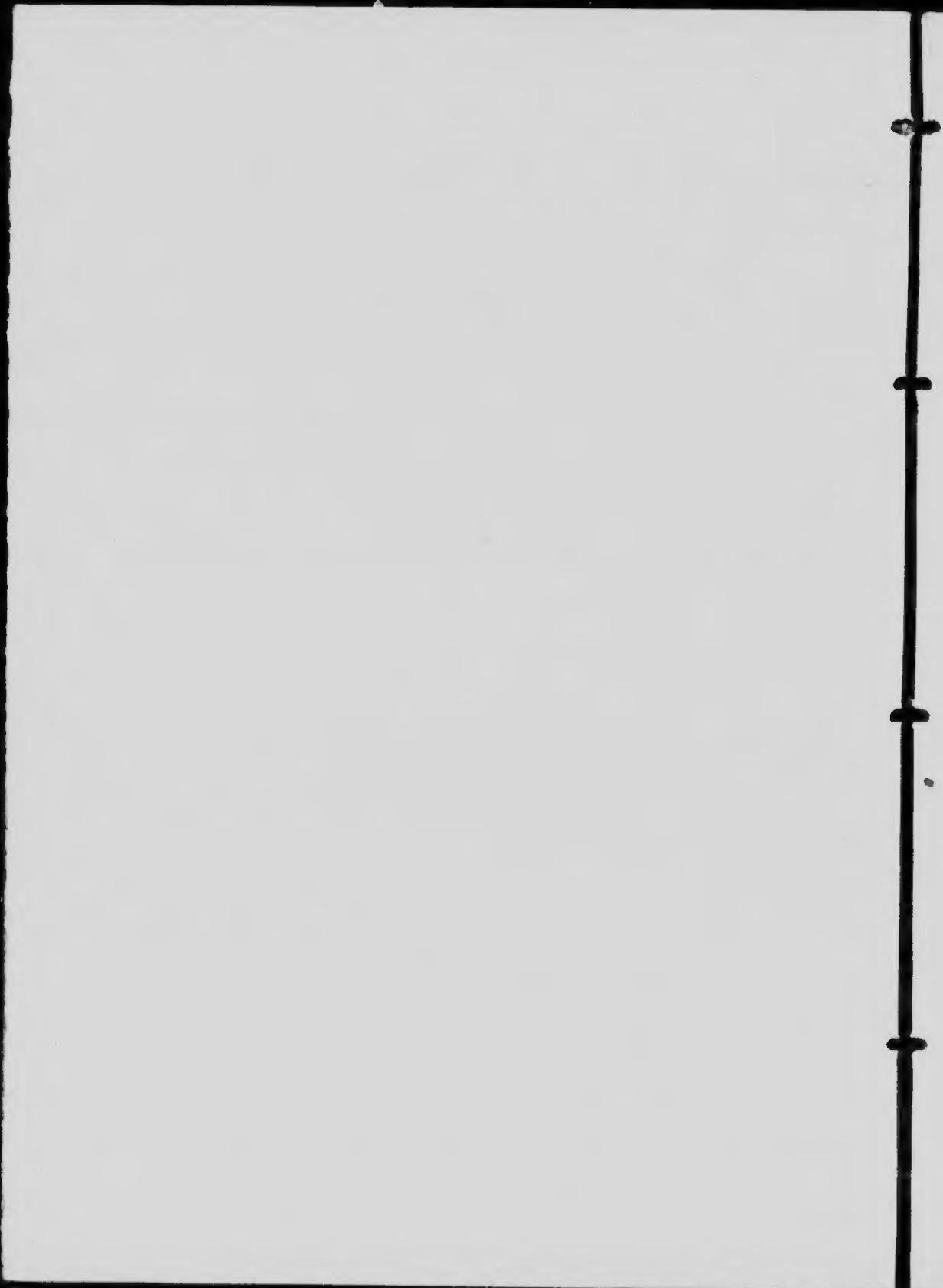
To a younger generation, Mr. Harris has handed down traditions worthy of the finest art. His were no short cut methods to success; he had the infinite capacity for taking pains, which marks the man of genius. Of him it may be said in the words of Carlyle: "A strong,

great soul, he was one of those who cannot but be earnest, whom nature herself has appointed to be sincere."

Like the lives of many great men, the life of Mr. Harris was uneventful. He was born in the Vale of Conway, Wales, in 1849, and came with his parents to Canada at the age of six. His early years were spent in Charlottetown, P. E. I., where he attended Prince of Wales College. His love of painting developed in childhood, and he received his training in art in Boston, at the Slade School in London and under Bonnat in Paris.

In 1883 he settled in Montreal, and devoted himself heart and soul to his work. He made frequent trips abroad; spent a winter in Rome; and in 1898 visited Spain, where he made copies of the Velasquez pictures, which are shown in the present Exhibition.

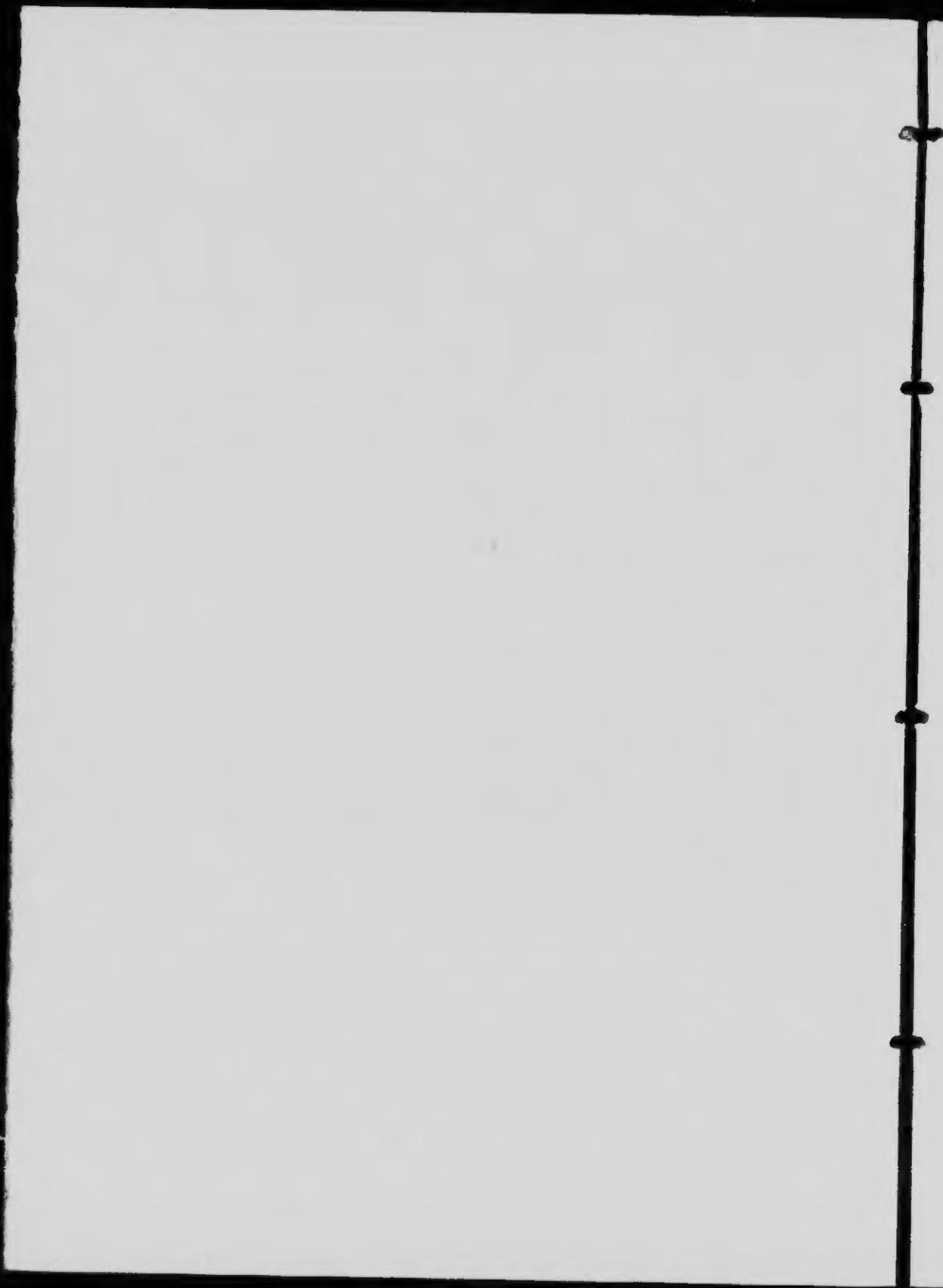
He was elected President of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts in 1893, and held that position until 1906. He was awarded a medal at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893; a gold medal at the Pan-American Ex-



position in Buffalo in 1901 and a gold medal and diploma at the World's Fair at St. Louis in 1904. In 1902 he was created a Companion of St. Michael and St. George, in recognition of his splendid service to art. He was the first Canadian artist to receive this decoration.

In addition to his portraits, Mr. Harris has left many charming landscapes and several genre pictures. He exhibited at the Paris salon, the Royal Academy in London, and in other famous exhibitions, where the pictures are selected by a committee composed entirely of artists. Robert Harris was a man of many talents. As a member of the Pen and Pencil Club, his keen sense of humour, his wide knowledge of all that is best in literature and art, his ability to write or to relate a story, his unfailing courtesy and geniality will long be remembered by his friends and companions.

Never was there a more kindly critic; his appreciation of all that was good in the work of his fellow artists was always shown, his meed of praise never withheld, his word of encouragement always ready.



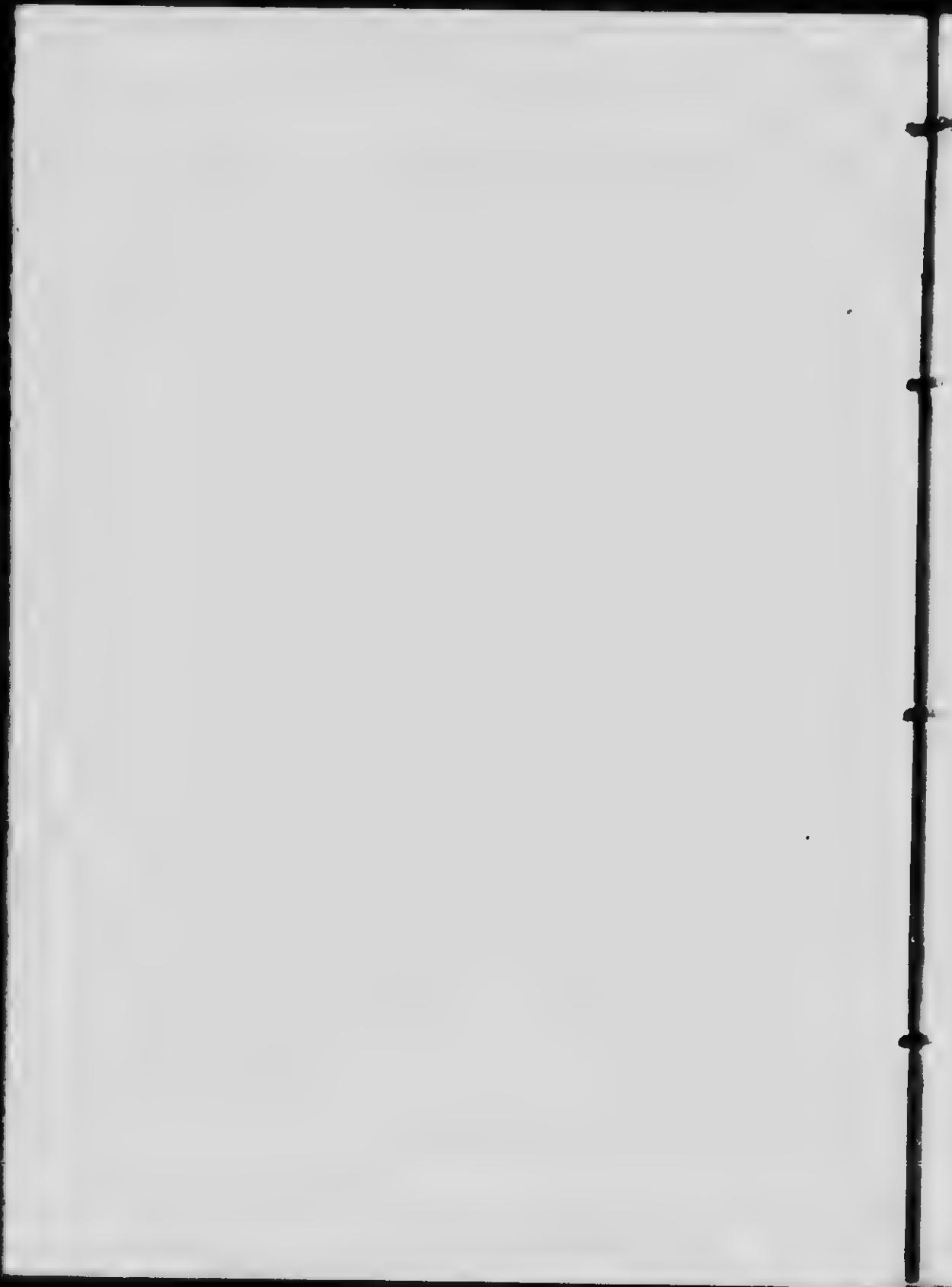
Much more might be said of the work and worth of Robert Harris, but modesty was one of his distinguished traits, and we hesitate to give him that praise which he so richly merited, knowing that to him the work was everything, the worker nothing.

His pictures are to be found in every gallery worthy of the name in Canada, and most of the private collections. These fine portraits will keep forever in the minds of the coming generations the name of this eminent Canadian portrait painter; and for us who knew him, we retain

*"The memory of a man unspoiled,
Sweet, Generous and Humane."*

At the above exhibition were many of his finest portraits, loaned by their owners, besides several of the pictures included in the collection on the walls of this Memorial Gallery.

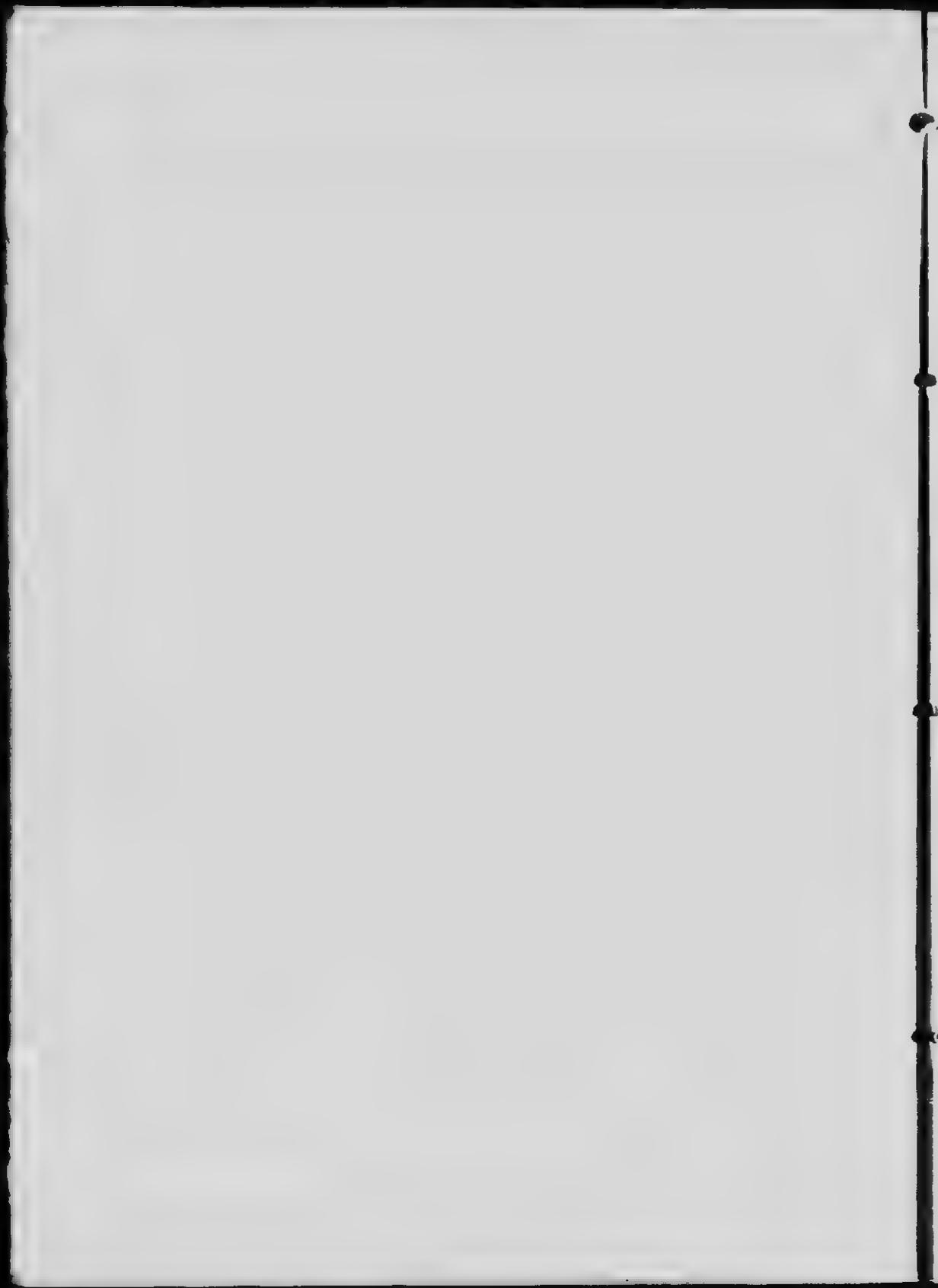
This Gallery, and the collection, was made possible and available to the citizens of Charlottetown and



Prince Edward Island through the generous bequest of the artist's widow, Elizabeth Harris, and the goodwill and assistance of his executors.

In arranging the collection the attempt has been made to show the many sidedness of the artist's work, as the pictures cover over forty years' work, from early water-colours to late oil paintings, and all manner of subjects from studies of figure and landscape, allegorical and historical subjects, well finished portraits and dainty landscapes. All of which will repay careful study for their varied characteristics.

Attention is called particularly to the pencil sketch of the "Fathers of Confederation," this being one of the actual preliminary working drawings used in completing that historic work, while hung above it is a photograph taken from the actual picture before it left the artist's studio in Montreal to be sent to Ottawa to be placed in the old Parliament Buildings, and later destroyed with them in the great fire.



Those interested in Mr. Harris's work may see a number of his early portraits of men prominent in Prince Edward Island in the Legislative Chamber of the Parliament Buildings here, also portraits of some of the Mayors of Charlottetown in the City Hall, and also a number of memorial pictures in the Chapel adjoining St. Peter's Cathedral, Rochford Street.

In four albums are collected several hundred photographs of the pictures which are dispersed throughout Canada in private collections, these albums may be seen on enquiry by those interested in his work.

Mr. Harris painted at least three hundred portraits of the prominent men and women of Canada of his day, the average size being a 24" x 30" or full life head, though there are many full length and three quarter length pictures, all these apart from the great Confederation picture which contained thirty-four persons.



**Catalogue of Pictures
ON EXHIBITION**

**Robert Harris Memorial Gallery
Charlottetown, P. E. I.**

1. The Sands of Dee

From Kingsley's Poem:

"Oh is it weed, or fish, or floating hair—
A tress o' golden hair,
A drowned maiden's hair
Above the nets at sea."

This picture was reproduced among America's Master-pieces of Art, but was called "After the Wreck" by the publishers.

2 The Wayfarer

A tired French peasant resting by the roadside.

**3 Copy of "The Tapestry Weavers,"
"Los Hilenderas,"**

A large picture in the Prado Gallery, Madrid. This was painted from Velasquez's picture by R. H. in 1898. This copy shows only a portion of the complete picture which was larger.

4 Portrait of Mr. Watson of Glasgow

Of the Dominion Iron and Wire Co., presented to this gallery by the Steel Co. of Canada.

5 "It was a Lover and his Lass"

Landscape and fisherfolk at Runswick, in Yorkshire, England.

6 Pastel Portrait of a lady's head.

7 Nuns in Convent

Two nuns sit contemplating a fresco picture of the Virgin Mother and her Child.

8 Coast scene at Gaspe

This picture was never completely finished, but is complete enough to show an ambitious composition, which doubtless took longer to complete than the visit at Gaspe allowed.

9 Portrait of Lord Aberdeen

Preparatory sketch for Governor General of Canada, painted for him, the finished portrait, considerably larger, is in Haddo Hall, Scotland, the seat of Lord Aberdeen.

10 Still Life.

11 Still Life.

12 St. Kevin (*Coemghen*)

A Celtic Saint of the 5th century. The picture illustrates Tom Moore's poem "O'er the Lake Whose Gloomy Shore," one version of an old tradition. Poor gentle Kathleen who meant no harm is pushed over the precipice and perished in the lake. Kevin had misunderstood her devotion to him.

13 Summer Moon, (Perce)

14 Adversity.

Painted in Ecouen, France.

15 Nude Study

Of a woman's back.

16 Patching the Canoe

Voyageurs repairing canoe, while an Indian looks stolidly on.

17 At Perce. Making the Landing

18 A Cavalier

19 Robert Harris

Large self portrait, painted in 1885.

20 Turk Smoking

21 Elizabeth (Mrs. Robert) Harris

Exhibited at St. Louis World Fair and winning gold medal.

22 "The Lonely Hours that Harbour Quiet Thoughts"

23 "Time and Tide wait for no Man"

Old Time calls the fishermen before he can escape, while his boat lies stranded at ebb tide.

24 Old Man and Dog

25 Landscape at Metis

Boy playing on pipe while a goose listens in the foreground.

26 Man with a Glass

Comfortably set ready for a drink.

27 Oriental Merchant

Displaying his wares.

28 Pere Breboeuf's Vision

The Jesuit Missionary to the Hurons sees in the sky the vision of a huge cross, portending the martyrdom that awaited these heroic missionaries when the Iroquois descended on the Huron settlements.

29 Maisonneuve and the Indian Chief

Maisonneuve, founder of Montreal or Ville Marie, encounters the Iroquois chief, who had come to massacre the French settlers and shoots the chief to the consternation of his followers, who did not know of the existence of firearms. This took place in what is now the heart of Montreal.

30 A Pastoral Scene

"From all the lonely land with lights withdrawing
In clouds the silent gloom of night has come
Both wearied man and tired beast are turning
From the long day to evening thoughts of home."

31 Italian Girl

In costume

32 Country School — Prince Edward Island

Canoe Cove. An unfinished picture. The sketch for this was made on the spot in 1880.

33 Ships at Quay

Evening effect. Etaples or Monteville-sur Mer, France.

34 At the Piano

Sketch of Mrs. Robert Harris.

35 Before the Song

36 A Corpus Christi Procession in the Streets of Quebec

37 Copy of "The Maids of Honour," "Las Meninas"

With the Spanish Princesses or Infanta the centre of attraction. This was copied by Mr. Harris from the original in the Prado Gallery, Madrid in 1898, and is also considerably reduced showing only the main group in the picture. The King of Spain bestowed the order Santiago on Velasquez for painting this picture.

WATER COLOUR GROUP

38 An Island Shore Scene (*Sketch*)

39 Cape Bonaventure, Gaspe

40 Interior of Cottage at Runswick
Yorkshire, England, where artist and his wife stayed.

41 In Front of St. James Kirk
Charlottetown, 1882.

42 West End Fitzroy Street
Charlottetown, 1882.

43 Unloading Brick at Ferry Wharf
Charlottetown, 1882.

44 Pownal Wharf
With old Roman Catholic Cathedral in background.

45 Landscape
Road at Campbellton, N. B.

46 Black and Chinese White
Catching salmon at St. Joachim's Church, Chateau-
guay, across from Montreal.

47 Black and Chinese White
Andrea del Sarto. (*From Browning's Poem.*)

48 Confederation Picture
Original pencil sketch for Fathers of Confederation
picture.

49 Confederation Picture

Original photograph from the famous painting "Fathers of Confederation," which was destroyed in the great fire in the Ottawa Parliament Buildings. As far as is known this is the only existing photograph taken from the picture with the artist's approval and to his satisfaction.

50 Local Stars

An oil painting showing the village choir practising under the leadership of the local master musician.

51 Beggar at Church Door

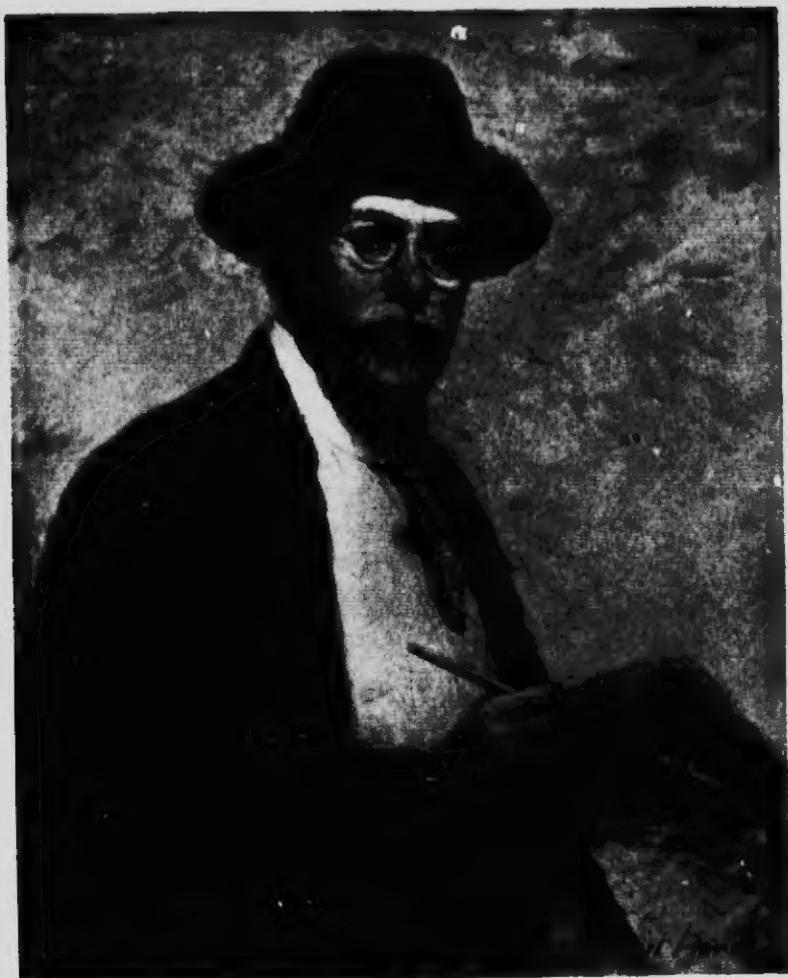
52 At Perce

53 Scenes at Holland Cove

54 At Brackley Beach

55 On the North River

56 Post Office, Etaples sur-Mer



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